

# Agricultural Review

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NEW ENGLAND  
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*A special "Thank you" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, internet, telephone, or personal interviews.*

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**Milk:** Prices Received, Number of Cows, Production and Price

**Chickens:** Inventory, Value, Layers and Eggs

**Acreage:** Corn, Hay, Oats, Barley and Tobacco

**Bee and Honey:** Colonies, Yield, Production, Value, and Stocks

**Dairy Products:** Butter, Cheese, Ice Cream

**POTATO STOCKS:** Maine potato stocks on hand April 1, 2008 totaled 6.2 million hundredweight (cwt), 19 percent below the previous year and the lowest level on hand since 2002. Disappearance to April 1 in Maine totaled 10.3 million cwt, unchanged from a year earlier. Storage accounted for 38 percent of Maine's total production, compared with 43 percent last year and the previous 5-year average of 40 percent.

The 13 major potato states held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2008, up eight percent from a year ago and 12 percent above April 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the 2007 fall storage states' production, up two percentage points from April 1, 2007. Potato disappearance, at 270 million cwt, was one percent above April 1, 2007 and up four percent from 2006. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, was down three percent from the same date in 2007 but up seven percent from 2006. Processors in the nine major states have used 144 million cwt of potatoes this season, down one percent from the same period last year but up nine percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 29.3 million cwt of the total processing, down nine percent from last year but ten percent above the same period in 2006.

## NEW ENGLAND FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR 2008:

New England intentions as of March 1, 2008 indicated farmers plan to keep plantings of field corn unchanged from the previous year and cut fewer acres of dry hay. New England farmers expect to plant 180,000 acres of field corn in 2008, with acreage increases in Connecticut and Maine offset by reductions or lack of change elsewhere. Farm operators in the six-state region intend to harvest 578,000 acres of dry hay in 2008, compared with 566,000 acres harvested in 2007. Oat growers in Maine plan to seed 32,000 acres in 2008, an increase of 1,000 acres from a year earlier. Maine's barley producers intend to seed 21,000 acres in 2008, compared with 18,000 acres planted in 2007. Broadleaf tobacco for harvest in Connecticut and Massachusetts in 2008 is forecast at 3,100 acres, an increase of 100 acres from last year's harvested acreage. Grower intentions in early March placed 2008 shade tobacco acreage for harvest in the two states at 1,120 acres, a decrease of 100 acres from the previous year's harvested acreage.

## UNITED STATES FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR 2008:

Corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down eight percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but one percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all states, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are

expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

Oat growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres, down nine percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. Most of the decrease in acreage of oats is expected to be in the Great Plains States. Acreage intentions declined in 15 of the 30 estimating states.

Barley growers intend to plant 4.15 million acres for 2008, up three percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing state, expected planted area is 1.55 million acres, up five percent from 2007. Growers in California, Wyoming, and Virginia intend to increase their acreage by 35 percent or more. In Michigan, New York, and Utah, acreage is expected to decline to record low levels and Nevada producers intend to match their lowest acreage on record established last year.

Hay producers expect to harvest 60.6 million acres of all hay in 2008, down two percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the Great Plains, Southeast, and Southwest. The state with the largest expected decrease is Texas, down 390,000 acres from 2007. However, area for harvest in most states in the northern Great Plains, Western Mountain regions, and Northeast is expected to increase from 2007. The states with the largest expected increases from the previous year are North Dakota, up 120,000 acres, and Montana, Wyoming, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, each up 50,000 acres.

**MILK PRODUCTION:** Milk production in Vermont totaled 223 million pounds for the month of March 2008, an increase of 3.7 percent from March 2007. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during the month, unchanged from the previous month. Milk production per cow averaged 1,590 pounds, an increase of 55 pounds per cow from March 2007.

Milk production in New England totaled 1.04 billion pounds for the first quarter (January - March) of 2008, up 3.7 percent from the same quarter in 2007. There was a total of 222,100 head of milk cows on New England farms, an increase of 500 cows from the previous quarter (October - December). Milk production per cow averaged 4,686 pounds across New England, an increase of 158 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

Milk production in the United States was 47.6 billion pounds during the first quarter of 2008, an increase of 3.2 percent from the same quarter of 2007. Nationwide the number of milk cows averaged 9.3 million from January - March 2008, compared with 9.1 million a year earlier. The United States' average quarterly rate was 5,141 pounds per cow, an increase of 101 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

FALL POTATOES: Production and April 1 Stocks, 2007 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State	2006 Crop			2007 Crop		
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2007	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks April 1, 2008	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,870	800	21	4,223	600	14
Colorado	22,686	9,000	40	20,981	7,500	36
Idaho	128,915	46,500	36	131,650	51,000	39
<b>Maine</b>	<b>17,980</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16,530</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>38</b>
Michigan	14,190	1,800	13	14,700	2,900	20
Minnesota	20,400	6,100	30	20,680	6,400	31
Montana	3,518	2,300	65	3,696	1,900	51
Nebraska	8,730	2,400	27	8,051	2,100	26
New York	5,700	500	9	5,216	300	6
North Dakota	25,480	7,900	31	23,660	6,000	25
Oregon	18,533	7,600	41	20,238	8,700	43
Washington	89,900	21,000	23	102,300	29,500	29
Wisconsin	29,370	7,400	25	28,160	7,000	25
<b>13 STATES</b>	<b>389,272</b>	<b>121,000</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>400,085</b>	<b>130,100</b>	<b>33</b>
Klamath Basin <sup>2</sup>		1,400			1,150	

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2007 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

<sup>2</sup> Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., April 15, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## POTATOES: Shrinkage and Loss, 13 Fall Storage States, 2004 – 2007

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Season
	Million Cwt							
2004 <sup>1</sup>	15.5	19.1	22.0	24.8	27.3	29.7	32.5	35.4
2005	12.7	15.0	16.8	18.4	20.2	22.0	23.7	26.4
2006	13.2	16.1	18.4	20.4	22.3	24.0	25.5	27.8
2007	13.9	16.0	18.0	19.7	21.6			

<sup>1</sup> 15 fall storage states.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., April 15, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2003 – 2007 Crop Years  
Prices Received by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average <sup>1</sup>

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
2003	6.00	5.25	5.45	5.85	5.70	5.80	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.75	7.05	6.05
2004	5.90	5.15	5.65	6.15	6.35	5.90	6.55	6.60	6.95	7.30	7.40	6.50
2005	*	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.55	8.25
2006	*	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.40	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.80
2007	*	6.20	6.30	7.20	7.35	7.45	7.95	8.15				7.50 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary.

\* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., March 28, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## FIELD CORN and DRY HAY: Acreage, 2007 – 2008

State	Corn Planted for All Purposes			All Dry Hay Harvested		
	2007	2008 Intentions as of Mar 1 <sup>1</sup>	2008 as Percentage of 2007	2007	2008 Intentions as of Mar 1 <sup>1</sup>	2008 as Percentage of 2007
	1,000 Acres		Percent	1,000 Acres		Percent
Connecticut	26	27	104	61	60	98
Maine	28	29	104	149	150	101
Massachusetts	18	18	100	82	80	98
New Hampshire	14	14	100	46	50	109
Rhode Island	2	2	100	8	8	100
Vermont	92	90	98	220	230	105
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>93,600</b>	<b>86,014</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>61,625</b>	<b>60,583</b>	<b>98</b>

<sup>1</sup> Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## OATS and BARLEY: Area Planted, 2006 – 2008

State	Oats Planted for All Purposes				Barley Planted for All Purposes			
	2006	2007	2008 Intentions as of Mar 1 <sup>1</sup>	2008 as Percentage of 2007	2006	2007	2008 Intentions as of Mar 1 <sup>1</sup>	2008 as Percentage of 2007
	1,000 Acres			Percent	1,000 Acres			Percent
Maine	31	31	32	103	18	18	21	117
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	4,168	3,760	3,420	91	3,452	4,020	4,147	103

<sup>1</sup> Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## TOBACCO: Area Harvested by Type, 2006 – 2008

State and Type	Area Harvested			2008 as a Percentage of 2007
	2006	2007	2008 Intentions as of Mar 1 <sup>1</sup>	
	Acres			Percent
<b>Broadleaf (Type 51)</b>				
Connecticut	1,650	1,900	2,000	105
Massachusetts	950	1,100	1,100	100
CT and MA Total	2,600	3,000	3,100	103
<b>Shade (Type 61)</b>				
Connecticut	850	1,000	900	90
Massachusetts	200	220	220	100
CT and MA Total	1,050	1,220	1,120	92
<b>UNITED STATES (All Types)</b>	339,000	356,000	350,920	99

<sup>1</sup> Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: 2003 – 2008 Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold<sup>1</sup>

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Price per Cwt												
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004	14.00	14.40	16.20	17.80	20.10	19.80	17.60	15.50	16.30	16.60	17.00	17.20	16.90
2005	16.90	16.00	16.60	15.80	15.50	15.10	15.80	15.70	16.10	16.50	16.10	15.50	16.00
2006	15.30	14.60	13.80	12.80	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.90	13.60	14.50	14.70	14.80	13.70
2007	15.60	15.80	16.70	17.60	19.00	21.00	23.20	23.40	23.60	23.20	23.60	23.00	*
2008 <sup>2</sup>	22.20	20.40	18.90										

<sup>1</sup> Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

<sup>2</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

\* 2007 Annual average will be available in April 2008.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., March 28, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, March 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow			Production <sup>2</sup>		
	March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	March 2007	February 2008	March 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	140	140	1,535	1,500	1,590	215	210	223
New York	628	626	626	1,630	1,590	1,680	1,024	995	1,052
Pennsylvania	550	551	549	1,710	1,540	1,680	941	849	922
<b>UNITED STATES<sup>3</sup></b>	8,295	8,427	8,436	1,783	1,654	1,795	14,787	13,942	15,144

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup> UNITED STATES includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: *Milk Production*, 3:00 p.m., April 18, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## QUARTERLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, January – March 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow <sup>2</sup>			Production <sup>2</sup>		
	Jan – Mar 2007	Oct – Dec 2007 <sup>3</sup>	Jan – Mar 2008	Jan – Mar 2007	Oct – Dec 2007 <sup>3</sup>	Jan – Mar 2008	Jan – Mar 2007	Oct – Dec 2007 <sup>3</sup>	Jan – Mar 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Connecticut	19.0	19.0	19.0	4,960	4,610	4,950	94.0	88.0	94.0
Maine	32.0	33.0	33.0	4,420	4,450	4,460	141.0	147.0	147.0
Massachusetts	15.0	14.5	14.5	4,360	4,250	4,480	65.0	62.0	65.0
New Hampshire	14.5	14.0	14.5	4,990	5,130	5,170	72.0	72.0	75.0
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,000	4,110	4,365	4.4	4.5	4.8
Vermont	140.0	140.0	140.0	4,479	4,514	4,679	627.0	632.0	655.0
<b>New England</b>	221.6	221.6	222.1	4,528	4,537	4,686	1,003.4	1,005.5	1,040.8
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	9,138.0	9,198.0	9,250.0	5,040	5,003	5,141	46,058.0	46,015.0	47,552.0

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup> Revised.

SOURCE: *Milk Production*, 3:00 p.m., April 18, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, March 2007 – 2008

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Egg Production from All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	March 2007	March 2008	March 2007	March 2008	March 2007	March 2008	March 2007	March 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,843	2,770	2,906	2,832	2,443	2,331	71	66
Maine	3,963	4,141	4,021	4,204	2,189	2,307	88	97
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	282,815	276,340	348,201	342,040	2,242	2,244	7,806	7,675

<sup>1</sup> Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., April 22, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: NEW ENGLAND Production, February 2008 with Comparisons

Product	February 2007 <sup>1</sup>	January 2008	February 2008	February 2008 as percent of:	
				February 2007	January 2008
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	3,253	3,511	3,573	110	102
American Type Cheese <sup>2</sup>	6,240	7,457	6,673	107	89
Mozzarella Cheese	3,277	3,885	2,998	91	77
Other Italian Cheese <sup>3</sup>	372	496	460	124	93
Cottage Cheese <sup>4</sup>	611	591	615	101	104
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	6,788	6,739	5,584	82	83
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	939	1,070	1,230	131	115
Milk Sherbet, Hard	131	78	131	100	168

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

<sup>2</sup> American type cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.

<sup>3</sup> Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.

<sup>4</sup> Creamed and low fat.

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., April 4, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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